

## Claims

1. A signaling method for a link protocol used for  
5 transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system,  
comprising the steps of:  
a) encapsulating said data unit in a protocol data unit  
having a field for a sequence number of said data unit; and  
b) using a predetermined sequence number for signaling a  
10 control function of said link protocol.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said control  
function is a protocol reset function.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said  
protocol data unit is an RLC protocol data unit of a UMTS  
system.
4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims,  
20 wherein said predetermined sequence number is the number  
"0".
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein a sequence  
numbering of said protocol data unit is continued with the  
25 number "1" after reaching a maximum number.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3,  
wherein said predetermined sequence number is one of the  
numbers having the highest values addressable in said  
30 sequence number field.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein a sequence  
numbering of said protocol data unit is continued with the  
number "0" after reaching a maximum number defined to be  
35 less than said predetermined sequence number.
8. A communication element using a link protocol for  
transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system,

wherein a control function for controlling said communication element is signaled by a signaling method according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

5 9. A communication element according to claim 8, wherein said communication element is a base station or a radio network controller.

10 10. A communication element according to claim 8, wherein said communication element is a mobile station.

11. A transmitter for transmitting a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein the transmitted data unit is encapsulated in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number, comprising:

15 a) signaling transmitting means (1) for signaling a control function; and

20 b) sequence numbering means (2), responsive to said signaling transmitting means (1), for indicating said control function using said sequence number field.

12. A receiver for receiving a data unit in a telecommunication system, wherein the received data unit is encapsulated in a protocol data unit having a field for a sequence number, comprising:

25 a) sequence number reading means (11) for reading a sequence number in said sequence number field; and

30 b) signaling receiving means (12), responsive to the sequence number reading means, for interpreting a predetermined sequence number as a request for a control function.